By the King.

A Proclamation for a generall Fast to bee solemnized throughout this Realme of England.

THe Kings moſt Excellent Maieſtie, hauing by His Royall Authority aſſembled His high Court of Parliament, in that great Councell which is the repreſentatiue body of His Whole Kingdome, to Conſult, Debate, and Conclude of thoſe weighty, and moſt important matters, which concerne the glory of God, the honour of the King, the ſafetie of his Kingdomes, and ſupport of His Friends and Allyes. Taking into His moſt pious and Princely conſideration the preſent ſtate of the true Religion, and of the affaires of Chriſtendome, Himſelfe, His people, His Friends and Allyes, being imbarked in an open warre, with potent and vigilant enemies, although hee neither doth, nor will neglect any ordinary meanes, which may conduce to their iuſt defence, yet Hee neither doeth, nor will make His reliance vpon the arme of fleſh, but in His priuate deuotions dayly lifteth vp His heart and hands to God, who is the King of kings, and Lord of hoſtes, from him to begge and obtaine a bleſſing vpon His Counſels and indeauours, and to take His owne cauſe into his owne hand. Yet to the end, that in a common calamitie, wherein Prince and people are involued, both Prince and people might humble themſelues before Almighty God, and be reconciled vnto him, His Maieſtie being mooued thereto by the ioynt petition of His Lords and Commons in Parliament, Himſelfe in his owne pietie eaſily inclining to ſo religious and ſeaſonable a motion, according to the examples of all good Kings in former ages, in like caſes, hath reſolued, and doeth hereby command a

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generall and publique Fast to be held and solemnized throughout this Whole Land, in such manner as hereafter is directed and prescribed, that so both Prince and people, euen the whole kingdome as one man, may offer vnto Almighty God, their hearty & vnfained thanks for his manifold mercies formerly vouchsafed vnto them, & may powre out their supplications with strong cries, vnto him, who is able to deliuer in times of greatest difficulty and danger, to send a blessing vpon the Counsels of this great assembly, to prosper their Actions and indeauors, and to diuert those iudgements, which the sinnes of this Land haue worthily deserued.

To this purpose His most excellent Maiestie hath consulted with his reuerend Bishops, and to the end so Religious an exercise may bee performed With all decencie and vniformitie, His Maiestie hath resolued vpon a graue and Religious forme of solemnizing thereof; which His royall pleasure hee doeth hereby publish and declare to all his louing Subiects, and doeth straitly charge and commaund, That on Saturday next being the fift day of Aprill, this fast bee Religiously and solemnely obserued and celebrated in the Cities of London and Westminster, Borough of Southwarke, and other places adiacent, Wherein His Maiestie in His Royall person, and with His owne Family and Royall household, will giue an example to the rest of his people: And that on Sunday the one and Twentieth of the same Moneth of Aprill the like be kept and duely obserued, throughout the rest of this whole Realme of England and Dominion of Wales. And for the more orderly solemnizing thereof Without confusion, His Maiestie, by the aduice of his Reuerend Bishops, hath directed to bee composed, printed, and published, the forme of such Prayers and publique Exhortations, as he thinketh fit to bee vsed in all Churches and places at these publique Meetings; And he hath giuen charge to his Bishops to disperse the same throughout His whole Kingdome. All which, His Maiestie doeth expressely charge and command, shall be reuerently and deuoutly performed by all his louing Subiects, as they tender the fauour of Almighty God, and would auoyd his iust indignation against this Land; and vpon payne of such punishments, as His Maiestie can iustly inflict vpon all such, as shall contemne or neglect so Religious a worke.

Giuen at Our Court at White-Hall, the nine and twentieth day of March in the fourth yeere of Our Reigne of Great Britaine, France, and Ireland.

God saue the King.

¶ Imprinted at London by Bonham Norton and Iohn Bill, Printers to the Kings most Excellent Maiestie.
M.DC.XXVIII.

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